

Change on p 2

NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1958

NORTH AFRICA (short)

- I. In Tunisia Bourguiba--in face of public impatience and suspicion--willing to accept Murphy proposals as first phase toward rapprochement with France.
 - A. Gaillard, while not rejecting them outright, indicates they not entirely acceptable.
 - II. In Algeria rebel upsurge continues especially near Tunisian frontier.
 - A. New influx of Algerian refugees into Tunisia ^{*now enclosed*}—Tunisians claim some 7,000--tell atrocity stories.
 - III. In Morocco fighting in Sahara reportedly ceased on 25 February with rebels hiding out and probably reforming to fight again.
 - A. Relations with US seem to hang in balance.
 - B. Rabat making new attempt to break French dominance in area:
 1. Has reiterated request that US prevent French use of Fort Lyautey as entry point for material--French recently shipped military supplies through there.
 - C. US aid and base negotiations not going well.
 - D. Meanwhile, King preoccupied with need to end Algerian war.
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- IV. In France Gaillard apparently hopes to "spin out" good offices for prolonged period, maneuvering to stall parliamentary rebellion.
 - A. Rightist demands for troop reinforcements to Algeria reflect military pressures to save Algeria at all costs.

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State Dept. review completed

- B. Cabinet has empowered him to ask confidence vote on his compromise offer *on the military budget* which involves further squeeze of already compressed air force and navy budgets.

- C B. Gaillard could fall next week on constitutional reform, but upcoming Easter recess make all-out attack politically unpracticable.
- D C. Speculation on De Gaulle again current.
- E D. Increasing indications of military dissatisfaction with the government's North African policies.
 - 1. Rightist politicians are seizing on the army's dissatisfaction to support their demands that the government adopt extreme policies.
 - 2. US ambassador Paris considers conditions ripe for further incidents "perhaps game ones" in North Africa, because of danger of military taking action into own hands